

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 142141
ORIGIN ARA-14

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DRAFTED BY ARA/PAN:DKGUTHRIE
APPROVED BY ARA/PAN:EJNADEAU
-----181006Z 128972 /21

R 180318Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

UNCLAS STATE 142141

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PN

SUBJECT: ALLEGATIONS OF ANTISEMITISM IN PANAMA

REF: PANAMA 4158

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY PANAMANIAN
EMBASSY JUNE 9:

BEGIN TEXT. NO ANTI-SEMITIC POLICIES OR SENTIMENTS EXISTS
IN PANAMA, ON THE CONTRARY. JEWS RESIDING OR BORN IN PANAMA
CONSTITUTE PART OF THE COMMUNITY SAME AS OTHER PEOPLES WHO
ARE PART OF THE NATIONAL LIFE, IN COMMERCE, INDUSTRY, THE
PROFESSIONS.

THE POSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF PANAMA ON THE QUESTION OF
ISRAEL HAS BEEN VERY CLEAR AND DEFINITIVE; WHEREIN,

FIRST: PANAMA VOTED AFFIRMATIVELY FOR THE CREATION OF THE
STATE OF ISRAEL.

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SECOND: PANAMA OPPOSED AND VOTED AGAINST THE RESOLUTION
EQUATING ZIONISM WITH RACISM.

THIRD: PANAMA VOTED AND VOICED OPPOSITION WHEN BECOMING A
MEMBER OF THE ORGANIZATION OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES, AT
LIMA, PERU, TO RESOLUTIONS DIRECTED AGAINST ISRAEL.

PANAMA AND ISRAEL ACTUALLY MAINTAIN VERY FRUITFUL

RELATIONS, WITH FREQUENT EXCHANGES OF TECHNICAL,
CULTURAL AND YOUTH MISSIONS.

THE PANAMA-ISRAEL FRIENDSHIP INSTITUTE HAS OPERATED IN
PANAMA FOR MANY YEARS, WITH MANY DISTINGUISHED
PANAMANIAN AMONG ITS MEMBERS, INCLUDING HIGH OFFICIALS
IN THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT.

WE WOULD LIKE TO EMPHATICALLY STATE THAT ANY STATE-
MENT CONSIDERED ANTI-SEMITIC, MADE BY ANY CITIZEN ON HIS
OWN, DOES NOT HAVE THE APPROVAL AND DOES NOT REPRESENT THE
SENTIMENTS OF NEITHER THE GOVERNMENT NOR THE PEOPLE OF
PANAMA. END OF TEXT.

2. FOLLOWING GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR BRIEFING ON JUNE 16
FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF JACK ANDERSON'S COLUMN:

Q. ON ANOTHER PANAMANIAN SUBJECT, JACK ANDERSON IN
TODAY'S COLUMN SAYS THAT THERE IS EVIDENCE OF A SECRET
DEAL BETWEEN PANAMA AND LIBYA TO GIVE ARAB EXTREMISTS A
FOOTHOLD IN THE HEMISPHERE AND TO COOPERATE WITH THE ARAB
BOYCOTT AGAINST THE JEWS.

A. WE ARE AWARE THAT GENERAL TORRIJOS VISITED LIBYA AT
THE INVITATION OF MUAMMAR QADDAFI TWO MONTHS AGO.
FOLLOWING THE VISIT HE ANNOUNCED GENERAL AGREEMENTS ON
ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL MATTERS. AS FAR AS MR. ANDERSON'S
STATEMENT ABOUT ANTI-SEMITISM IN PANAMA IS CONCERNED,
WE ARE AWARE OF THE PAMPHLETS AND LETTER HE DESCRIBED AND
WE ARE ALSO AWARE OF THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT'S RECENT
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DENUNCIATION OF THESE DOCUMENTS.

3. NO QUESTIONS CAME UP DURING THE NOON BRIEFING JUNE 16.

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